

April 28, 1975

I have a question for Senator Burbach. Senator Burbach, I am not...I was trying to follow what you were saying. Is this that bill that would allow Aksarben to have some extra days of racing and Columbus would take the others?

SENATOR BURBACH: This is right. 15 days for Aksarben and 10 for Columbus. There will not be a race meet held in Lincoln that year, then. There will this year but not in 1976 but those 25 days will be, 15 in Omaha and 10 in Columbus, right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Burbach. Members of the Legislature, by any name that you call horse racing, it is gambling. It is just as bad as the vicious lottery that was approved by the Omaha City Council. It is an attempt to take money from people who really don't have it to spend. Everybody knows that the gambling presents the notion of obtaining that windfall, that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and I know that what I am saying here is not going to change anybody's vote and you will send this hellish thing into Omaha for 15 more days than it is there already but there are organizations like Aksarben, the Knights of Aksarben, which get credit for being very fraternal, sensitive, charitable type organizations but the publicized their outfit which I feel, racing, gambling is highly immoral and unjustifiable in a Christian nation. They bring a woman here who acknowledges she is a member of the Ku Klux Klan. She addressed a Ku Klux Klan rally in Iowa just a few weeks ago and she is racing at Aksarben as one of the star attractions. If some of you all don't know what the Ku Klux Klan stands for, it does not stand for Catholicism. It is anti-Catholic, anti-black, anti-Jewish, anti-foreign, anti-everything but the lady on the radio when she talked about it said, you must be a Christian to belong to the Ku Klux Klan so she has equated Ku Klux Klanism with Christianity. My understanding of Aksarben and what they stand for was that they had Christian principles so apparently she is correct. Now for this Legislature to send 15 more days of what I consider illegitimate activity into Omaha and try to legitimate it by 25 votes is reprehensible but I know that Aksarben is too powerful and the gambling interests are too powerful for this Legislature to think about standing up to them. The only reason this racetrack is not organized crime is because the Legislature has taken it out of the category of being criminal. There is no difference. There are people who go to that racetrack and borrow money. They spend grocery money. They spend mortgage money and this is well known by those who run the track and those who sit in this Legislature and you pretend that you don't know what a devastating this thing is, how devastating it is. It demoralizes a society. It causes people to steal, to tap tills, to snatch purses, to get the money to go out there and do what you are putting in front of them and saying is the proper way to try and get some money quickly. I am opposed to this bill and I am stating my opposition unequivocally. It amazes me that some of the members in this Legislature constantly talk about being concerned for the so-called little man and then will go for something like this racetrack when they know the little man is the one who cannot afford to be there. They call racing the Sport of Kings. Kings are the only ones who can afford it, just